

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 00670 312037Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 /017 W  
-----105220 312056Z /66

P R 311946Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5491  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 0670

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 311945Z JAN 78 SENT ACTION USINFO  
WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.--GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO JANUARY 31  
HEADLINED AN OPINION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OMEDO MIRANDA UPHOLDING  
THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF CABINET DECREE NO. 58 OF MARCH 3,  
1969 WHICH BANNED POLITICAL PARTIES. THE 5000 PLUS WORD OPINION  
TO THE SUPREME COURT WAS PROMPTED BY AN ACTION BEFORE THAT COURT  
BY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER DAVID SAMUDIO SEEKING TO HAVE THE DECREE  
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DECLARED INCONSTITUTIONAL.

2-IN HIS OPINION, CARRIED IN FULL IN MATUTINO, OLMEDO MIRANDA  
CONCLUDED: "THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CONTAINS DISPOSITIONS  
WHICH REFER TO POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT THOSE NORMS ARE NOT INTENDED  
FOR IMMEDIATE EXECUTION BUT FOR FUTURE EXECUTION... THE FORMATION  
OF POLITICAL PARTIES IS... SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETIONAL POWER WHICH

IS IMPLIED BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY."

3-PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPLY TO THE ALMA MONTENEGRO DE FLETCHER OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES WAS FRONT-PAGED IN ALL PAPERS JANUARY 31 IN ONE AND TWO COLUMN TREATMENT WITHOUT FANFARE.

4-SENATOR MOYNIHAN'S "DICTATOR" QUIP, CONSPICUOUS FOR ITS ABSENCE IN THE JANUARY 30 PRESS, APPEARED JANUARY 31 IN LA ESTRELLA AND STAR & HERALD, HOWEVER IN BOTH IT RAN WELL DOWN IN THE STORY WHICH CARRIED THE LEAD, "CRANSTON SEES IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR RATIFICATION." ITEM UNQUOTE  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL PARTIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTIONS FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 311945Z JAN 78 SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE  
WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTI  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PN  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014